

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 4 is amended and claims 5 and 6 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. The claim 4 amendment is supported at, for example, page 8, lines 2-5 and page 18, line 22 - page 19, line 4. Thus, no new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 1-3. For at least the reasons discussed below, Applicants submit that claim 4 also is allowable.

The drawings are objected to. Page 2 of the Office Action states that the drawings fail to show a recording medium. Applicants respectfully submit that the recording medium of claim 4 is illustrated, for example, as element 18 in Fig. 1, which executes the flowcharts in Figs. 2 and 3. It is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

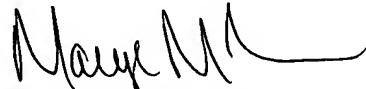
Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101. The rejection of claims 5 and 6 is rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 5 and 6. The rejection of claim 4 is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 4 is amended to recite a computer-readable recording medium as suggested in the Office Action. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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